

## AGENDA

### ITEM # 9

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**Hartford Board of Education  
Regular Meeting – Tuesday, December 18, 2007  
Hartford Public High School Auditorium– 55 Forest Street  
Hartford, Connecticut**

### MINUTES

#### I. Opening – 7:15 p.m.

At 7:20 p.m. Mayor Perez called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

<u>Present:</u> Honorable Mayor Eddie A. Perez, Chair Ms. Ada Miranda, First Vice Chair Mr. David MacDonald, Secretary Ms. Andrea Comer Mr. Israel Flores Ms. Sharon Patterson-Stallings	<u>Absent:</u> Ms. Elizabeth Brad Noel Ms. Pamela Richmond Mr. Luis Rodriguez-Davila
Superintendent Steven Adamowski	

Mayor Perez welcomed the audience with an opening statement regarding the meeting proceedings.

#### A. Reports

##### 1. Report from the Chair

Mayor Perez accepted a motion from **Ms. Patterson-Stallings to suspend the rules to allow parents to comment in the first public comment section. Ms. Miranda seconded the motion.**

Mayor Perez stated that the Board has not yet passed a policy to allow for parental comment during the first portion of the public speaking section of the regular meeting agendas. Given the comments of parents, the Board has decided to suspend the rules to allow for parental comment.

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

##### 2. Report from the Superintendent

Superintendent Adamowski recognized Eddie Genao, Principal of the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, and staff for the school's recognition as one of the most successful high schools in the U.S. News and World Reports Magazine.

- Redesign of Hartford's Comprehensive High Schools

Superintendent Adamowski gave a brief PowerPoint presentation.

In Reading on the AYP, there is a 62 point difference between the lowest performing high school and the highest performing high school.

High performing high schools have a research based curriculum that includes:

- Rigor (core, college-ready curriculum; variation of time and support)

- Relationship (small size: 400-600; teaming; sustained teacher/student relationships)
- Relevance (integrated theme or specialization; relevant, high interest, course content).

High school reform models include:

- Talent Development Model – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy followed by 10-12 career academies
- The New American High School Model – 9-10 Lower School followed by 10-12 Upper School programs
- The small, independent, focused 9-12 high school, e.g. Pathways to Technology
- Early College Model – 9-12 on college campus; seamless transition to college resulting from introduction to college culture and earning college credits, e.g. University High School

Superintendent Adamowski shared some possibilities for the three comprehensive high schools.

Bulkeley High School (1,200 - 1,400 students)

- The New American High School Model (building on current 9-10 teaming at BHS)
- Two schools (500-600 students)
- Shared common areas; program and age-based extra curriculars and athletics
- Lower School (Grades 9-10)  
Students assigned to teams of teachers until a Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) is earned and student qualifies for Upper School. CIM earned in an average of two years (6 teams anticipated).
- Upper School (Grades 11-12)  
Three, two-year specialized upper school programs of approximately 200 students each, e.g. Teacher Prep, Horticultural Sciences

Hartford Public High School (1,600-1,800 students)

- Talent Development Model
- 4 Academies (400-450 students)  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy  
Law and Government Academy (Leadership Greater Hartford)  
Nursing Academy (University of Connecticut School of Nursing)  
Engineering and Green Technologies Academy (CBIA)
- Shared common areas, extra curriculars and athletics

Weaver High School (1,200 students)

- Independent High School Model
- Two schools of 500-600 students each replace the current Weaver building
- Renovation of Barbour Street facility for Weaver Northeast (the majority of current Weaver students live in the Northeast)
- New construction of Weaver Northwest on the current Weaver campus
- Community input and engagement around the student needs and the academic focus of each school
- Beginning in 2008-09, establishment of the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy; incubation of two new schools beginning in 2009-10

Superintendent Adamowski shared 10 essential elements that should be part of all Hartford high schools.

1. A core, college-ready curriculum for all students based on the entrance requirements of our four-year state university system (20-21 credits).
2. Focused course content in a field of interest and specialization (6-7 credits) including an internship or capstone project in the senior year.
3. Alignment with the Connecticut SDE proposed high school graduation requirements and end-of-course assessments.
4. Variation in time-to-completion and support based on individual student needs.
5. Personal, accountable relationships between students and their teachers.
6. An orientation to preparation for post secondary education.
7. Participation in the school as a choice for both students and teachers.
8. A student compact that specifies requirements and responsibilities for enrollment.
9. Autonomy in operations, resource allocation, and program implementation under a separate principal, headmaster or director, guided by a School Governance Council.

10. Distinctive uniforms related to the school's focus.

Mayor Perez stated that the presentation represents where we want the district to be. The commitment of all players is essential for moving the district towards these goals. Mayor Perez asked the Board to allow him to move on to Public Comment.

## II. Public Comment on Agenda Items

**Xavier Harrison**, student at HPHS, stated that the students' voices are not being heard. He does many things for the school, including providing drums for the schools.

**Anna Maria Robinson**, student at HPHS, stated that the students do not receive the same education as students in other schools. Books, gym equipment, and instruments are needed in the school.

**Natasha Ridgefield**, student at HPHS, is concerned that the culinary school will be moving to WHS. If the program is going to be moved, school transportation should be provided.

**Milly Arcieniegas**, PTO Presidents' Council President, stated concern that parents have not been informed of the design teams. The lack of communication caused confusion. While parent forums were taking place, design teams were meeting without parent participation. Decisions were not made by the parents of the redesign schools. She suggested that the administration provide parents with a strategic plan, including how they will be funded, also meet with parents in the redesign schools. Parents want to make sure the new school models are sustainable.

**Shontay Browdy**, parent, stated that the 1989 graduating class of Fox Middle was tracked in their high school courses, and it may be helpful to the administration. She does not understand why the current successful school models are not being implemented in the redesign schools instead of starting new schools.

**David Ionno**, parent and Executive Secretary of HPHS PTSO, stated that the communication from the Board has decreased. The current programs are not being properly funded. Books and instruments are needed in the classrooms.

**Maria Vargas**, parent, is disappointed that she was not notified as to what is happening in the redesign schools.

**Sam Saylor**, parent, stated that there is an ambivalent trust on the part of the parents because communication is not clear, and parents do not feel included. He admires what the Superintendent is trying to do, but communication needs to be maintained with parents and teachers. Meetings need to be held in the evenings, so parents can attend and participate after work.

**June O'Neil**, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, stated that the resolution being considered by the Board will protect many children. Hopefully, attendance will improve, and test scores will improve. CCEJ thanked the Board for its consideration and for putting out to bid the school bus contract.

**Margaret Jeff**, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, stated that this resolution will help the health of the children.

**Kathelene Henry**, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, stated that there is an alternative group of cleaning products that can be used in the home. She stated that recipes are available from Dr. Mark Mitchell at 10 Jefferson Street.

**Mark Mitchell**, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, stated that there are resources available for there to be 100% green cleaning products. This resolution can educate the community about healthier and safer cleaning alternatives. He applauds the school district for leading this effort.

**Cathy Carpino**, President of the HFT, stated that the teachers are ready to help raise student achievement. She is pleased to know that the Superintendent met with the Educational Alliance yesterday. She is encouraged by

his willingness to work collaboratively. She encouraged the delay of redesigning HPHS. She also was concerned by the late closing of schools during the last snow storm.

**R. J. Luke Williams** stated that Hartford Public High School became a middle school for all intents and purposes because of the lack of leadership by former Boards of Educations. He likes the idea of smaller learning academies, but he is concerned, along with the alumni association, that the school will lose its sport teams, music programs, etc.

**Michael Downes**, President of the Substitute Teachers Union, supports the green cleaning products resolution. The redesign plans look good, but the teachers should be part of the redesign teams. The advent of the magnet schools drew the higher performing students from the neighborhood schools.

**Ann Edwards**, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, stated her concern for her nieces who attend Hartford schools with the toxic chemicals used to clean the schools.

Mayor Perez resumed with the Report portion of the agenda

### 3. Committee Reports

#### ▪ Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. Flores stated that the Committee has met during the last 2 months. The additional strategies require additional resources and funding. The Committee is working to assure that the funding is in line. The Committee has been following the Student Based Budgeting process; there will be a presentation at the next Board meeting in January.

#### ▪ Joint School Choice/Facilities Committee

Mr. MacDonald stated that the Committee met last month and received a presentation from staff regarding the School Choice Program that is being developed. The Committee reviewed the existing Board Policy on School Choice and the development of a zone-transportation structure and a system of tie breakers that should simplify the process of student assignment under the new School Choice System. Some of the key points from the presentation included that the new system will provide parents an opportunity to choose a school for their child at schools that have a large numbers of applications and have limited openings at certain grade levels and are difficult to get into.

## III. Business Agenda

### A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Second Reading/Adoption: New School Educational Program Specifications – Incubated Schools (Supt. et al)

The educational program specifications for four new schools to be incubated in August 2008 and phased-in several grades at a time are presented for second reading and adoption. These four schools are in alignment with the Board-adopted “An ‘All Choice’ System of Schools” five year-district plan and include: Achievement First, Breakthrough II, International Baccalaureate/Say Yes, and Montessori.

**Ms. Miranda made a motion; Mr. MacDonald seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

2. First Reading: Educational Program Specifications for the Redesign of Hartford Public High School (Supt. et al)

The educational program specifications for the redesign of Hartford Public High School into a Ninth Grade Academy and three autonomous grades 10 through 12 academies in August 2008 are presented for a first reading. These academies are in alignment with the Board-adopted “An ‘All-Choice’ System of Schools” five-year district plan and include at the 10 through 12 grade

levels: Nursing Academy, Academy of Engineering and Green Technologies, and Law and Government Academy.

**Mr. Flores made a motion; Mr. MacDonald seconded the motion.**

Ms. Patterson-Stallings asked how parents were notified on the redesign teams for the Hartford High School. Superintendent Adamowski stated that the design teams should be expanded to include more parents. Dr. Kishimoto stated that information was distributed to all PTO leadership. Each design team chair was assigned to identify parents to become members of the design teams. For the next phase, design teams are not to move forward without good parent participation. An informational meeting, in partnership with the new PTO leadership was held. Each of the proposed design teams was discussed. Mayor Perez stated that it is essential, at this point, to reach out to parents. Everything should be done to get parent involvement, including further presentations, including cable access. Dr. Kishimoto stated that the Redesign Office is committed to have more parental involvement in each of the design teams. She also stated that they have been using Channel 19 to run a couple of informational meetings.

Ms. Miranda echoed some of the students that spoke before. She requested that since student representatives no longer report to the Board, she would like to hear from students if the redesign models are working for them.

3. Second Reading/Adoption: Building Lease/Acquisition Policy (Finance and Audit Committee)

The purpose of this policy is to set guidelines by which leases/acquisitions will be entered into when the Board determines there is a need for additional space/buildings to address educational or administrative needs.

**Ms. Comer made a motion; Mr. Flores seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

4. Second Reading/Adoption: Business and Non-Instructional Operations—Gifts, Grants and Bequests Policy 3230 and Regulation 3230(b) (Finance and Audit Committee)

Current Board policy 3230 states that any gift with a value of \$5,000 shall be submitted to the Board of Education for approval. This amendment increases the gift value to \$50,000 and aligns Regulation 3230(b) to the amount of \$50,000.

**Mr. Flores made a motion; Ms. Miranda seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

5. Second Reading/Adoption: Business and Non-Instructional Operations—Contracts Policy 3310 (Finance and Audit Committee)

The purpose of this policy is to amend the current Board policy by increasing the limit from \$25,000 to \$50,000 by which all contracts and consultant agreements shall be submitted to the Board of Education for approval.

**Ms. Miranda made a motion; Mr. Flores seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

6. Suspend Board of Education Bylaw 9321, Annual Meeting (The Board)

The Board of Education's Bylaw 9321 provides for the Board of Education to conduct its annual organizational meeting on the first Tuesday of December. The Charter of the City of Hartford, however, establishes that five of the nine members of the Board of Education are to be appointed

by the Mayor of the City of Hartford after January 1, 2008 to take office on February 1, 2008. This resolution postpones the next annual meeting to the Board's first business meeting on

February 19, 2008, after appointed members of the Board of Education take office on February 1, 2008.

**Ms. Miranda made a motion; Mr. Flores seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

7. Approval of Construction Documents: Phase 3 – Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (FFE) Design for Sport and Medical Sciences Academy (Supt. et al)

After several meetings with school staff, the Buildings and Grounds Department, and the City of Hartford, DuBose Architects has completed the design for all FFE aspects of the project. The FFE and cost estimate documents have to be submitted to the Bureau of School Facilities for review and approval to maintain the project schedule.

**Mr. Flores made a motion; Mr. MacDonald seconded the motion.**

Mayor Perez asked Mr. Genao to say a few words. Mr. Genao stated that the process has been collaborative with students, faculty, parents and the construction manager. The building has been designed to exactly what they would like programmatically and instructionally.

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

8. Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint the following individuals:

- a. Paula Altieri to the position of Chief Financial Officer beginning January 2, 2008
- b. Glenda Alexander to the position of Professional Development Director beginning January 2, 2008.

Superintendent Adamowski asked Ms. Paula Altieri and Ms. Glenda Alexander to please step forward. Superintendent Adamowski stated that he was pleased to recommend two high level appointments to Hartford System of Schools Management team: Ms. Altieri to the position of Chief Financial Officer and Dr. Alexander to the position of Professional Development. He stated that Ms. Altieri has served in the capacity of Acting Chief Financial officer where she has demonstrated impressive levels of information, management, efforts to redesign the Finance Department and represents Hartford Public Schools interests well when communicating with the City of Hartford, the State Department of Education and other agencies. Superintendent Adamowski was also pleased to recommend Dr. Alexander to the position of Professional Development Director. Superintendent Adamowski stated the search for a candidate was initiated last summer. Dr. Adamowski stated that Dr. Alexander is a remarkable person with a remarkable background. She has served in a variety of important capacities; she was the founding principal of the well known Victory Charter School in Atlanta, she was part of the team that went to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to be part of the recovery of the school district. During that period of time she was recruited by America's Choice, handling professional development for schools in the southern portion of United States. Dr. Adamowski stated that Dr. Alexander has served our country in both the Army and the Navy.

**Ms. Comer made a motion; Ms. Miranda seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

9. Interim Administrative Appointment (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint the following individual to the interim position indicated:

- a. Jacqueline Jacoby to the position of Interim Chief Operating Officer from December 17, 2007 through February 14, 2008.

**Ms. Comer made a motion; Ms. Miranda seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

10. Acting Administrative Appointment (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Gail Green to the position of Acting Principal, Bulkeley Upper School effective January 14, 2008.

Superintendent Adamowski stated that Bulkeley High School will be divided administratively into two sections so that each can evolve along the lines described earlier. It is important to point out that this is an evolutionary process for Bulkeley, since it is not a school in redesign but one that needs to improve its performance by building upon some of the steps already taken.

**Ms. Miranda made a motion; Mr. Flores seconded the motion.**

Ms. Comer congratulated Ms. Green for the nomination on this position.

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

11. Continuation of Acting Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to continue the acting administrative appointments of the following individuals through January 2008:

- i. Janie Pertillar to the position of Acting Principal, Simpson-Waverly Magnet School
- ii. Michael Lorenzo to the position of Acting Principal, M.D. Fox Elementary School
- iii. Mark Levy to the position of Acting Principal, Kennelly Elementary School
- iv. Freeman Burr to the position of Acting Executive Director, Human Resources Department

**Ms. Miranda made a motion; Mr. Flores seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

12. Resolution: Use of Healthful Cleaning Products and Practices (The Board)

The Hartford Public Schools will use, whenever practicable, cleaning products having properties that minimize potential negative impacts to human health and the environment.

**Mr. Flores made a motion; Ms. Comer seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**B. Consent Agenda**

**Consent Agenda: Items 13 and 14**

13. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Regular Meeting of November 20, 2007 (Supt. et al) (Pages 119-127)

14. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Special Meeting of November 20, 2007 (Supt. et al) (Pages 114-118)

**Ms. Miranda made a motion; Mr. seconded the motion.**

**Mr. Flores abstained from the vote. The item was approved by voice vote.**

#### **IV. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Topics**

**Michael Downes, President of the Substitute Teachers Union**, stated that parents and teachers should be part of the design teams. The design specifications are very technical and may not be easily understood by parents who are not used to the terminology.

#### **V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.